



Submitted Photo

Gathering recently for the 88th birthday party of Doris Mae Vice of Helena, seated, are five generations of her family. Vice is holding her great-great-granddaughter, Maelee Olivia Hinkel, 3 months. Standing, from left, are Maelee's great-grandmother Juanita Mae Goff of Helena, grandmother Pamela Diane McDaniel of Robertsdale, Ala., and mother Jheri Sherrell Hinkel of Pascagoula.

## Rogers- Vice

HELENA — Dana Jo Rogers and Johnny Dale Vice were married in an afternoon ceremony March 26, 1988, in the Helena home of the grandparents of the bridegroom, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie (Alma) Vice. The Rev. Cindy Gibson officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rogers of the Escatawpa Community and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Vice of the Helena Community.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a formal gown of bridal satin, a sweetheart neckline and pouffed sleeves finishing a fitted bodice and a gathered skirt sweeping to a chapel length train. Fingertip veils of illusion fell from a Camelot cap of beaded lace, and she carried white bridal roses and rosebuds interspersed with moire silk roses.

Wanda Jobe of Lakeland, Fla., served her sister as matron of honor and bridesmaid was Monica Wilkinson of Escatawpa. Linsea Holloman, daughter of Cindy Holloman of Escatawpa, was flower girl.

The bridegroom was served by his father as best man, and by



Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Vice

his cousin, Ricky Vice of Helena, as groomsman. Ushers, who also lighted candles, were William Vice of Helena, brother of the bridegroom, and Howell Harvey of Escatawpa.

A reception followed in the Vice home. The couple is at home in Helena. On the eve of the wedding, a rehearsal dinner was held at Quincy's Restaurant of Moss Point.

PASCAGOULA LIBRARY  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION  
DO NOT REMOVE



#### VICE

**Ollie Cole "Paw Ollie" Vice**, 87, of Helena died Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003, in Helena.

He was born July 30, 1916, and remained a lifelong resident of the Helena community. He was the founder of Vice Construction Co. Inc., owned and operated Vice Sawmill, made cane syrup the "old-fashioned" way, a lifelong member of Helena Presbyterian Church, and was the oldest member of Live Oak Rifle Camp #1985 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"Paw Ollie" was nationally recognized for his efforts in the preservation of Piney Woods Cattle by the SVF Foundation in Newport, Rhode Island, and currently was the only man in the Southeast with a working team of oxen. He, with his family, traveled throughout the South showing his oxen and was given the 1998 Appreciation Award for showing his oxen at Williams Station, Atmore, Ala., and was awarded the 1999 Pioneer Award at the Leakesville Founders Day Event for his dedication and contributions to the annual event.

He was preceded in death by four children, Ann Vice Smith, Dorothy "Doodle" Vice, Arlene Vice and Morris Vice; parents, Ollie and Frances Vice; two brothers, Neils Kanstrup and Claude Vice; and one sister, Dixie Pierce.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Doris "Maw Maw" Vice, Helena; three sons, Buck (Jean) Vice, Johnny (Callie) Vice and Jimmy (Diane) Vice, all of Helena; three daughters, Nita Goff, Helena, Jo Ann Vice, Moss Point, and Darlene (Eddie) McIlwain, Mobile, Ala.; one brother, Bennie (Alma) Vice, Helena; one sister, Myrtle Frewin, Missouri City, Texas; 22 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3, 2003, at Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the funeral home chapel with tributes by the Rev. Joey Tur-

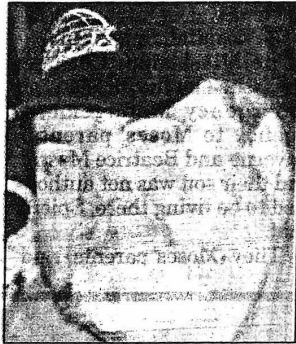
man and Justin Pitts.

Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Helena.

His grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Holder-Wells Funeral Home, Moss Point, is in charge of arrangements.

Pascagoula Public Library  
Genealogy & Local History Dept.  
Vice Family



HP 4.12.08

**VICE**

**Greg Alton Vice**, 49, of Helena, Miss., died Wednesday, April 9, 2008, in Jackson, Miss. Greg was a lifelong resident of the Helena community and was a member of the Helena Presbyterian Church. He was currently employed with Northrop Grumman as a crane operator and he previously worked with his family as a truck driver. Greg was devoted to his wife, two sons, and his mother and he enjoyed riding around and visiting with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Louis A. Vice; his grandparents, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Survivors include his loving wife of 30 years, Patricia Vice, two sons, Johnathon Vice and Josh Vice, his mother, Ruth Vice, all of Helena; three brothers, Gary Bartlett of Helena, Mark (Becky) Vice of Hurley and Benji (Teresa) Vice of Helena; one sister, Amanda Vice of Helena; six nieces and nephews, Ainsley Vice, Gavin Vice, Trey Furby, Daniel Vice, and Azelyn Vice; his mother-in-law, Betty Crump; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles (Donna) Crump, Bobby (Terry) Crump, Doug (Stephanie) Crump, Melissa (David) Fulton, Gary (Gayle) Crump, Lora (Randall) Johnston; and numerous other family members and friends.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2008, at Helena Presbyterian Church. The funeral service will be 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13, 2008, in the church sanctuary.

Interment will be Evergreen Cemetery, Helena.

The family prefers donations to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

The Riemann Family Funeral Home, 11280 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport, Miss., in charge of arrangements and an online guestbook may be signed at [www.riemannfamily.com](http://www.riemannfamily.com).



## Animals 'are smart'

# Oxen teams keep glimpse of past alive

By DON BROADUS  
Mississippi Press Staff

HELENA — Five-yoke ox teams straining against the heavy load of an eight-wheel wagon carrying yellow pine logs was a common sight in south Mississippi's timber-oriented economy at the turn of the century.

A glimpse into that part of the past can still be seen today, thanks to Ollie Vice of Helena who "worked all my life with oxen."

Vice and his cousin, Frank, both 72, started working oxen as boys. Their fathers were loggers and they followed in their footsteps.

"I drove that very wagon with my father," said Frank, pointing to an eight-wheeler that they recently reconstructed.

Ollie recalled the day their grandmother died. "We were logging at Elder Pond. We hooked up our teams (20 oxen) together and drove home."

Ollie said five yokes, each consisting of two oxen, was the normal number used on the eight-wheel wagons, but that number could be increased or decreased, depending on the job to be done.

The two keys to a good team of oxen are the "lead steers" and "tongue steers." Other yokes in the team are referred to as "pull steers."

The lead team sets the course, while the tongue team, the only team hooked directly to the tongue of the wagon, guides it and will stop the entire team on command. All yokes in the team are linked together by cable or chain to the load.

Vice said he starts working the oxen when they are a year old. By the time they are grown, about two years of age, they are ready to assume a place in the team.

"I heard a woman say on television that a cow is the dumbest animal alive," Vice said. "I say they're smart. You can't work a horse or a mule without a line."

Oxen are taught to respond to word command and, if necessary, the touch of a whip carried by the team drivers always on the left side of the team.

In ox talk, "whoa here" means move left, "gee" means move right and "whoa back" means stop.

"They learn to understand what you say and it doesn't take them long," said Ollie. "Not many animals can do that. They also learn their place in the team and will go there without being told."

Each ox in the team has a name and is always



**WORKOUT** — Driver works Ollie Vice's ox team by pulling logs at the Vice home. It was their first workout

yoked with the same ox. Vice's oxen are named Jim and Rick; Spec and Sam; Broad and Dallas and Sam and Henry.

Vice decided to go back into the ox business

since appearing in the George County Old Timers Day last fall. The team will be in Hattiesburg Saturday for

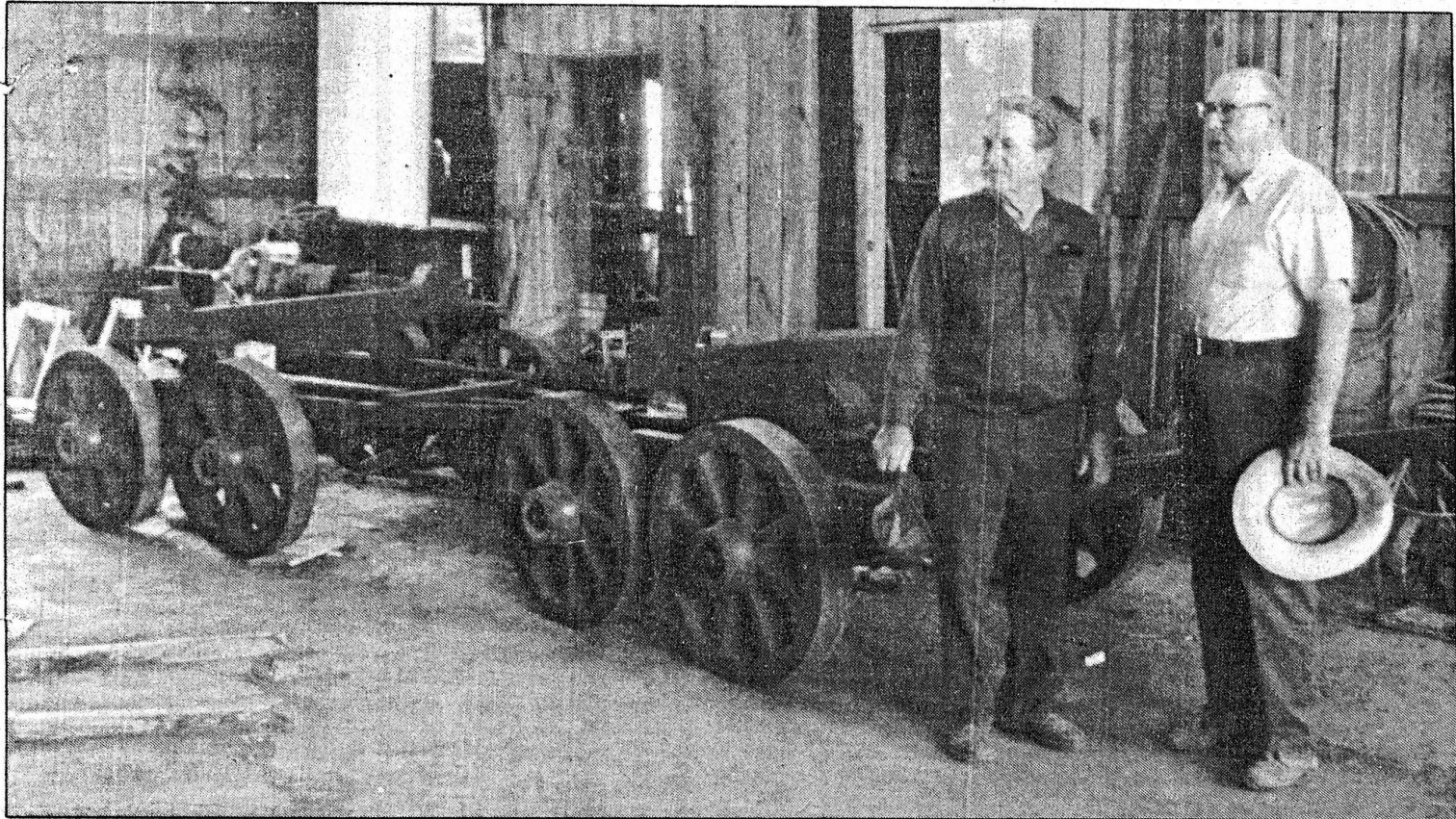
about seven years ago. He obtained what he calls a "piney woods" breed of bull from a man between Hattiesburg and Richton and began raising piney woods cattle, also called

the Piney Woods Heritage Festival.

rakestraws. "They are the only breed suitable," Vice says.

The breed has tough meat and the milk has  
See OXEN..... Page 4 ▶





Press Plus Photos/Jerry Moulder

**OLLIE VICE** (left) and Frank Vice have completely restored this eight-wheel log wagon and hope to add a log cart to their collection to go

with their five-yoke ox team. Many people, including the Vice cousins, once made their living in south Mississippi with oxen.

## ► Oxen

From Page 1

little fat content, but it was once the most valuable livestock in south Mississippi because it could do what other breeds could not — survive in the wild.

Before the livestock law was passed in the late 1950s, thousands of rakestraw cattle roamed the open ranges of south Mississippi.

"We enjoy working with oxen," said Frank Vice. "We've done it all our lives and we did it together. The only thing that ever separated us was that road."

The cousins lived across Kings Road from each other when they were boys. They still live there today.

The eight-wheel wagon has been completely reworked and painted in its original red and green colors.

Vice is presently restoring another eight-wheeler, an even larger version than his present wagon.

Vice also has restored a horse-drawn wagon which also appears in parades.

"I don't guess many people are about things like that, but



**OX TEAM MEN** — Frank Vice (left) and Ollie Vice worked with oxen all their lives. What they once did for a

living is now a pleasant way to pass the time for the two Helena cousins.

we like it," he said. "We show them the way it was."

Vice hopes to add a log cart to his collection. The two-wheel cart with eight-foot high wheels

was used to straddle a log, pick it up with a jack and cart it to a staging area.

On Saturday, May 14, Vice will load 10 oxen and the eight-wheel

wagon on two trailers and go to Hattiesburg where thousands will see a picture from the past moving through the streets in the Piney Woods Heritage Festival.